

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Fig. 7. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 7. In Fig. 7, previously omitted PRIOR ART designation has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments made herein.

In amended Fig. 7, the previously omitted PRIOR ART designation has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 8, and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of (JP 63-174296) and DeRemer (US 4,307,285) and Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. None of the cited references teach or suggest a microwave heating apparatus having an L-shaped waveguide wherein a width of the waveguide is greater than $\lambda_0/2$ and less than λ_0 and the height of the waveguide is less than $\lambda_0/2$, wherein λ_0 is a wavelength of the microwave in a free space. Of the cited references, only Yoshimura discloses an L-shaped wave guide. There is nothing in Yoshimura that discloses determining the height and width of the L-shaped waveguide with respect to the wavelength of the microwave in a free space. Neither JP 63-174296, DeRemer, nor AAPA make up for these deficiencies of Yoshimura. Because neither Yoshimura, JP 63-174296, DeRemer, nor AAPA alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every limitation set forth in claims 1, 3, 8, and 11, the combination of Yoshimura, JP 63-174296, DeRemer and AAPA cannot render such claims obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appln. No. 10/539,109
Amendment dated March 20, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated December 20, 2007

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our
Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB-38340.

Respectfully submitted,
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